

# In the United States Court of Federal Claims

## OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 18-815V

Filed: September 5, 2019

UNPUBLISHED

MICHELLE MARIE COBENAIS,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Special Processing Unit (SPU);  
Damages Decision Based on Proffer;  
Influenza (Flu) Vaccine; Guillain-  
Barre Syndrome (GBS)

*Troy Allen Poetz, Rajkowski Hansmeier Ltd., St. Cloud, MN, for petitioner.*

*Traci R. Patton, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for respondent.*

### **DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES**<sup>1</sup>

**Dorsey**, Chief Special Master:

On June 8, 2018, petitioner filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*,<sup>2</sup> (the “Vaccine Act”). Petitioner alleges that she suffered Guillain-Barre Syndrome (“GBS”) due to an influenza (“flu”) vaccine administered to her on October 7, 2015. Petition at 1. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On May 2, 2019, a ruling on entitlement was issued, finding petitioner entitled to compensation for GBS. On September 3, 2019, respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation (“Proffer”) indicating petitioner should be awarded \$120,000.00. Proffer at 1. In the Proffer, respondent represented that petitioner agrees with the proffered award. *Id.* Based on the record as a whole, the undersigned finds that petitioner is entitled to an award as stated in the Proffer.

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<sup>1</sup> The undersigned intends to post this decision on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website. **This means the decision will be available to anyone with access to the internet.** In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to redact medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, the undersigned agrees that the identified material fits within this definition, the undersigned will redact such material from public access. Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, undersigned is required to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002. 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2012) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services).

<sup>2</sup> National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755.

Pursuant to the terms stated in the attached [Proffer](#), **the undersigned awards petitioner a lump sum payment of \$120,000.00 in the form of a check payable to petitioner, Michelle Marie Cobenais.** This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under § 15(a).

The clerk of the court is directed to enter judgment in accordance with this decision.<sup>3</sup>

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

**s/Nora Beth Dorsey**

Nora Beth Dorsey  
Chief Special Master

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<sup>3</sup> Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment can be expedited by the parties' joint filing of notice renouncing the right to seek review.



Petitioner is a competent adult. Evidence of guardianship is not required in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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s/ Traci R. Patton  
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Dated: September 3, 2019